

A1 cond.

5. (Amended) Scheduling means according to claim 4 further comprising priority mixing means provided before any of said further pipeline stages[, for transmitting to that further pipeline stage additional ones of said request which have not been satisfied].

Amend claim 6, line 1, delete "any preceding claim" and insert --claim 7--.

A2

7. (Amended) Scheduling means according to claim 6 [in which,] wherein upon receiving instructions specifying predetermined connections between [some] at least two of the ports, said data array (CV_i) is modified to include said predetermined connections[, whereby said pipeline stages only satisfying requests which are consistent with said predetermined connections].

Amend claim 8, line 1, delete "any preceding claims" and insert --claim 1--.

R E M A R K S

This amendment eliminates multiple dependency in the claims and puts claims 1-8, as amended, in proper U.S. format. No new matter is introduced by this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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